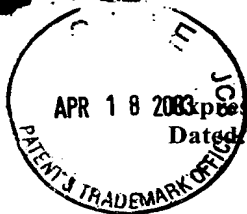


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Jean-Damien Charrier, et al.  
ASSIGNEE: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/877,832 EXAMINER: V. Balasubramanian  
FILING DATE: June 7, 2001 ART UNIT: 1624  
CONF. NO.: 9982  
FOR: CASPASE INHIBITORS AND USES THEREOF

April 18, 2003  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1), applicants hereby petition for a three month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated October 21, 2002. With the extension, a response is due on or before April 21, 2003.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee of \$930.00 that is due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3) to Deposit Account No. 50-0725. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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